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Long players break record

The trouble with setting world records is that someone always comes along and has a crack at breaking them, often successfully. Imagine playing cards for 272 hours non-stop, as five sturdy skat-terbrains in the Allgäu hamlet of Wald did recently, and then hearing that someone had already chalked up 300 hours of skat.

To add insult to injury the Bavarians learnt that the 'cards' who had beaten their record, newly won from the Duis-burg team that played for a mere 271 and a half hours, was not even from their state — Rhinelanders no less, from the village of Döblen near Koblenz.

Trust the Bavarians not to take such an insult lying down. The sturdy men of Wald are foaming at the mouth and not just because they have been drinking their favourite brew. No sir! They are out for revenge!

They must, after all, protect their homeland, noted for its love of holding the world record in the most unlikely sports and pastimes from the tarbilla insult dealt them by Rhinelanders.

There is no Valhalla for creators of world records, but if there were it would be dominated by Bavarians out to prove that they can beat the world's best at whatever game you choose.

Take Lucki Hofmair, for instance. A name to conjure with since he smashed the previous world long-distance walking-on-lands record.

The 28 year-old publican from Regens-burg covered the 132 kilometers (83

miles) from his home town to Munich on his hands. He wore out twenty pairs of gloves on the way. This record, set up four years ago, has still to be broken.

Forearm wrestling! You may not think that there is a championship for this noble sport, but you would be wrong. At the Bayernhalle in Garmisch-Partenkirchen last year the 1970 Alpina championships were held.

For the 145 participants who took part aged from fifteen to sixty this was a true world championship. And if you think that this is a sport for cissies it should be mentioned that a team of four first aid men was constantly in action repairing cuts, abrasions and callouses. Victor in all classes, a name that should not be omitted from any hall of fame — Michael Franz from Annemogau.

Two world-record holders in the field of hygiene also live within the boundaries of the proud free state of Bavaria. A 39 year-old accountant from Munich, Peter Schall by name, stood under a shower for 168 hours, no less than seven days and seven nights. After his triumph — a lap of honour was scarcely possible — he stated that cleanliness is next to godliness.

For the Federal Republic snufftaking championships in Moosburg, Upper Bavaria, the 83 snufflers who took part did not make such lofty claims. But they did say that the powdered tobacco from which they derive their pleasure "be good for the brain".

The championship involved taking five

grams of snuff within a minute and without pulling a face or spilling any. The contestants were exclusively from the south of this country. The winner — Alfred Böhm from Dettm-hofen.

Fortitude rather than skill was called for at the record-breaking attempt on the world kissing championship last March at which two students, Frederic Arroyo and Monika Sebaas competed.

There was not so much passion as glory at stake, sporting glory that paid no heed to medical warnings.

The previous record stood at 95 minutes and 40 seconds and was set up in London. Could the 100 minute barrier be broken and the record brought not only to Germany, but Bavaria? 101 minutes later Bavaria had done it again!

For Walter Leisig of Munich, a 35 year-old dumpling fanatic the mouth was the route to a championship as well. But he did not kiss with his, he used it for eating. He had to travel abroad to Salzburg for the world dumpling eating championship.

Forty-five minutes ticked away and 36 dumplings disappeared inside Walter. He

just could not eat another — but ordered one to be cut in half and space for that as well. So, dumpling or not, that is the standard, must aim for.

For the record champion Walter Le also belongs to the team that holds the world potato crisp eating record.

(NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, 9 January 71)



Dumpling champion Walter Leisig in action

(Photo: Kapa)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Opposition tones down opposition to Ostpolitik

On more than one occasion in the course of this year's Bundestag debate on the state of the nation the government paid the Opposition a compliment. The principal Christian Democrat (CDU) speakers no longer accused the government's Eastern Bloc policy of being motivated by amoral principles. They merely accused the Social Democrats (SPD) of lack of foresight.

"You are sounding a more subdued note, Mr. Chancellor," Opposition leader Kurt Georg Kiesinger said, virtually praising Willy Brandt.

Even SPD parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner, a man not normally noted for handling the Opposition with kid gloves, had already advocated quiet discussions with Herr Kiesinger far away from the rough and tumble of Bonn party politics, even if it were only to be in memory of similar talks during the previous administration when both major parties shared office in the Bonn Grand Coalition.

There were many reminiscences in the course of the debate, some nonsensical, some unfitting, but more clearly than at any time since autumn 1969 the two sides appear to be trying to understand one another.

They are, as it were, reinsuring in case the government's Eastern policy proves a failure and/or the Opposition regains office and has to operate on the basis of this selfsame Ostpolitik.

There can be neither villification of what may tomorrow prove necessary nor

controlled emotion and the primitive pleasure of self-assertion, though.

In this the Bundestag reflects the climate of public opinion. On issues of national importance many people still tend to resort to emotion and unreason rather than to common sense.

It must, of course, be admitted that it is none too easy to use common sense in politics when the issues at stake do not lend themselves to a common-sense approach.

The nation as a link between people in the two German states is a vague business and subject to historical changes too.

Herbert Wehner talked in terms of a common cultural heritage, something that can be described in black and white, but this heritage links us equally with Vienna or Paris, Prague, London and Rome. It can hardly be called a calculable political force.

Yet even eighteen-year-olds, who are little enough for history, still reckon to be acquainted with Austria or Switzerland as free but foreign countries while the GDR, subject to an objectionable system of government though it may be, is not felt to be a foreign country.

This link, in the final analysis indefinable, is felt even more strongly among people in the GDR. So the common "nationality" still represents an obligation to feel politically responsible for the destinies of fellow-countrymen, and this is only one reason why there must be special relations between the two German states.

Incorporation of this special relationship in the new treaties is far from being the least important target of the whole gamut of Ostpolitik. The Soviet Union, for instance, has undertaken to refrain from intervening in the Federal Republic's domestic affairs and abandoned the demand for diplomatic recognition of the GDR prior to any other treaty.

To this extent it is not fair of the Opposition to claim that Bonn has yet to gain a single concession. It is truer to say



Interference with West Berlin traffic

German Democratic Border Guards obstructed the free flow of road traffic on the access routes to Berlin on 28 January. At Lauenburg between Hamburg and Berlin heavy goods vehicles queued for up to thirteen hours. Cars and buses were allowed through without hindrance. Strongly worded protests were lodged by Bonn and the Western Allies. The GDR action was taken as a protest against the visit by Federal Republic President Gustav Heinemann to Berlin's Green Week. Red Cross workers handed out hot soup to delayed lorry drivers at the Lauenburg check point. (Photo: dpa)

that the overall situation is proving more complex than the government expected a few months ago.

Willy Brandt has already indicated a line of withdrawal. His government is no longer talking in terms of it being a matter of three or six months before the necessary Four-Power agreement is reached on Berlin. All that is now said is that agreement may yet be reached this year.

The Chancellor is not discounting the possibility of the entire policy proving a failure either. Not for nothing has he stated the first of his six final demands to be self-determination for all Germans as a prerequisite for unification.

Should the Eastern policy come to a successful conclusion this demand could be let ride. If it proves a failure self-determination in freedom for all Germans must once again come to the fore.

The CDU shows respect for this modesty and the alternatives it presents. Its principal spokesman intend to wait and see rather than commit the Opposition to vote one way or the other. Views on Berlin also tally, though little mention is made of the details.

The CDU leaders must be congratulated on resisting the temptation to jump on the bundeweggon of opposition to the government's Eastern policy as the beginning of the end. No prophecies of doom were made by the CDU either at their Düsseldorf party conference or during the Bundestag debate.

The Christian Social Union, Bavaria's counterpart to the CDU, was conspicuous by its silence. Its only speaker during the Bundestag debate was Sudetenland right-winger Dr. Walter Becher. Are CSU leaders loath to commit themselves, one wonders?

Demonstrative exercise of power around Berlin puts the GDR in a key role. East Berlin evidently considers Bonn's Eastern policy to be nothing but a threat to the socialist system.

Events in Poland are being interpreted by East Berlin leaders as confirmation of the truth of their warning voices. So-called Social Democracy is the writing on the wall as far as they are concerned.

They will also, of course, be wondering what cards they will still hold if Four-Power agreement is reached on Berlin, making it impossible in future for the GDR to attempt to gain a stranglehold on the western part of the city.

In the past this possibility has always been rated a bird in hand should the "West" attempt to intervene in domestic unrest in Eastern Europe.

The eventual strength of the GDR will probably not be clear until fighting has been resolved at the Soviet Communist

(Heraldtribune, 1 February 1971)

Continued on page 2

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

One of the world's top ten

"Zeitung für Deutschland" ("Newspaper for Germany") is a designation that reflects both the Frankfurter Allgemeine's underlying purpose and, more literally, its circulation — which covers West Berlin and the whole of the Federal Republic. In addition to 140 editors and correspondents of its own, the paper has 450 "stringers" reporting from all over Germany and around the world. 300,000 copies are printed daily, of which 220,000 go to subscribers, 20,000 are distributed

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Frankfurter Allgemeine

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Brandt's trump card on Berlin is European integration

The unshakable confidence with which Chancellor Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel await a satisfactory solution to the Berlin question must be admired.

Statenlike settlements have seldom been reached swiftly in the past and in instances where they have been they have generally proved extremely short-lived.

Patience is a particularly necessary virtue because although a settlement of German problems must begin with mutual acknowledgement of the status quo it must necessarily transcend the status quo in due time.

Nato and the Warsaw Pact, blocs accomplished in cold warfare, are still in balance and if history demonstrates anything it is that in this imperfect world a balance between opposing forces is, relatively speaking, the best bet for peace.

The situation in Europe is not ideal but it is straightforward and convenient for most. That is what makes a policy of detente so difficult.

Willy Brandt's policy towards the Eastern Bloc is acknowledged in both East and West as the nucleus of a future policy of detente. But the real thing calls for readiness on the part of both world powers to scale down military confrontation in Europe and limit their arms race in strategic nuclear weapons.

Years of study within Nato of the possibilities of balanced troop reductions by the two pacts indicate how difficult it would be to maintain the balance of power in any such process.

The snail's pace at which the Salt talks between Russia and America are proceeding demonstrates the difficulties equally clearly.

Opinions differ as to whether or not a genuine relaxation of tension ought to include staking out spheres of influence. In Europe the situation appears straightforward enough but already in the Mediterranean it is most precarious and agreement out of the question in the Indian Ocean, where with the aid of an increasing naval presence the Soviet Union is shielding itself from China by means of a kind of policy of encirclement.

The gradual US withdrawal from Vietnam will in no way restore peace and quiet to the situation as regards the balance of power in South-East Asia, where American, Soviet and Chinese interests overlap.

It is because the situation outside Europe is so unstable that the two world powers hesitate before coming to an agreement on Berlin and so starting a process of developments the course of which will gradually get out of their control and might bring about an unstable situation in Europe too.

Continued from page 1

Party congress in Moscow this March. This country needs to be prepared for a long wait. The Bundestag debate bore witness to a degree of calm that cannot but be beneficial. Insulting insinuations and the ensuing anger did not predominate. Both sides of the House seem to have realised that long-term policy is called for.

The Federal Republic has made its contribution to a surrender of outmoded national claims. The government has committed itself in writing on this point. But no one can renounce the effective freedom of Berlin or the principle of self-determination for all Germans.

Hans Helger

(Addenda: Zeitung, 30 January 1971)

Both Washington and Moscow may have important reasons for being prepared to bring about a relaxation of tension but both have grave misgivings about the risks of a policy of detente.

Moscow may on the one hand feel detente in Europe to be desirable in view of its anxiety about the possibility of a confrontation with China but the Kremlin must also be worried about the possible repercussions of agreement on Berlin (and the clarification of relations between Bonn and East Berlin that would be bound to ensue) on the inner structure of the Eastern Bloc.

One can be fairly sure that the Soviet leaders would be most reluctant to have to stage a rerun of Budapest in 1956 and Prague in 1968.

For Washington and Moscow alike the expense of military confrontation is an argument in favour of detente. So, in the United States, is the strong current of domestic opinion against America's worldwide commitments.

But like Moscow Washington also fears the repercussions of a relaxation of tension on the West. Individual members of Nato only need to loosen their ties with Nato for the existing balance of power to be upset before a new one is established with the aid of an all-European peace settlement of whatever kind.

Neither great power can foresee what consequences may result from the progressive integration of Western Europe. At the December 1969 Hague EEC summit the mere suggestion of Bonn's Eastern policy led M. Pompidou and the others to show increased readiness to integrate.

Bonn is to be bound more closely to the Common Market on the one hand while membership for Britain, Denmark, Norway and Ireland is to offset the increasing economic and political weight of this country within the EEC.

For the United States Western European integration was desirable as long as it was strictly limited to the Nato framework and helped to strengthen the alliance.

But in terms of trade the Common Market has long come to be America's major competitor — not intentionally as far as most member governments are concerned, merely as a result of its natural interests.

In addition of these economic interests unmistakably political motives have, however, contributed to Common Market expansion in the Mediterranean and Africa by means of preference and treaties of association.

It is characteristic of the situation that Washington is combatting this policy even though it has yet to put the United States at an economic disadvantage.

Officially Washington is in favour of EEC expansion but American politicians and captains of industry are showing increasing signs of alarm, particularly as the expanded ten-member EEC would probably, together with British entry, form a free trade zone including Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Iceland as well.

The outcome would thus be a more or less cohesive economic region extending from Greenland to the northern frontiers of Southern Africa the present and future members of which, for reasons that are only natural, already occasionally bear witness to a uniform viewpoint at the United Nations and on other international bodies.

Yet the six founder members of the Common Market have only recently be-

gun to coordinate their foreign policies. Militarily neither the EEC or its associates represent any danger for either of the great powers. Even so, under pressure from without the process of integration could alter the situation within a matter of years.

Moscow's attitude towards Western European integration is almost as mixed as Washington's. Officially the Eastern Bloc countries have yet to recognise the EEC but individual Comecon countries have already felt obliged to come to unofficial agreements with Brussels in order to safeguard their exports.

From 1973 on the Common Market intends to pursue a common trade policy towards the Eastern Bloc and allow bilateral agreements to lapse.

Officially the Soviet press is allowed to rage rampant against expansion of the EEC and the projected agreements with neutral countries. Unofficially the Kremlin has so far tolerated even Finland's and Austria's talks with Brussels.

Is this merely because enforced isolation would spell economic ruin for the two countries? No, it is more reasonable to assume that Moscow views inevitable forthcoming conflict between Western Europe and the United States as a possibility of Western Europe parting company with America.

On the other hand the Soviet leaders will be wondering what repercussions Western European economic integration will have on Eastern European neighbours. Will the upshot be Finlandisation of Western Europe or Rumanianisation of Eastern Europe?

For both countries, then, there would appear to be as many reasons for as against the potential risks a genuine policy of detente would involve. This would explain why, in addition to difficulties on details, they are hesitating before reaching an agreement on Berlin that would be the starting signal for many new developments and trigger off the acceleration of existing trends.

Neither Moscow nor Washington can hesitate for ever, though. This is probably the reason why Willy Brandt is so confident. More is at stake in Berlin than was at Panmunjon. If the two sides wait too long the status quo they want to preserve may have been overtaken by events in Western Europe.

Erich Hünner

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 January 1971)

The trouble with Africa!

It did not take the latest events in Guinea and Uganda to put Africa in a poor light in the eyes of world opinion. Industrial circles, who for reasons of tradition and conviction have for years endeavoured to maintain steady trade with other countries, have of late repeatedly emphasised the danger of a foreign and economic policy apparently ignorant of international trading links and the need to try and sell on Western markets.

One independent African country in three has already resorted to increasing nationalisation. Total or partial take-overs of banks, industrial enterprises and foreign trade firms have been much to the detriment of the investment climate. Ex-President Obote of Uganda was far from alone in having pressed ahead with nationalisation.

Technical assistance too becomes an impossibility when, as is now the case in Guinea, the safety of development aid specialists can no longer be guaranteed.

At a time when Africa is having trouble enough on world markets this nationalistic attitude hurts social groups the problems of which African statesmen regularly describe in eloquent terms at international gatherings.

(Hendelsblatt, 27 January 1971)

Brandt and Pompidou reach agreement

The consultations arranged under terms of the Franco-Federal Republic friendship treaty are an example of political liaison between two neighbouring countries.

In an atmosphere of mutual good agreements and compromises can be reached on conflicting interests that are even between allies.

The latest encounter between Brandt and Georges Pompidou centred the problems relating to development of the EEC, particularly the economic currency union, and Eastern policy including Berlin and the projected European security conference.

To judge by the comments made by two (at a joint press conference) reached in official communications) agreement was reached on a pragmatic approach to the economic and monetary union, accorded with French wishes.

But the deadlines proposed in Werner Plan (three years for the phase and ten years till completion of transformation) were retained, at least targets, as was parallel economic integration, without which monetary union could easily become a bottomless pit for the country with the most stable currency.

Providing, then, that the other members of the EEC agree the Werner Plan failed to clear in December can now be scaled.

Both sides are in favour of joining the Common Market. The differences of opinion that could arise on terms. As with the currency union the details are the problem, matter how much the two countries agree on plans.

The same is true of policy towards Eastern Bloc. While Herr Brandt goes for acceleration of the Four-Power talks which is understandable enough in coalition's position, M. Pompidou favoured a considered and cautious approach emphasising the priority of agreement between the Allies over intra-union negotiations on matters of detail.

As little leeway as possible ought to be left for Eastern manoeuvres designed to drive a wedge between this country and the West.

M. Pompidou may recently have put the Berlin question in a less urgent light as regards its proposed function as proviso of approval for Bonn's Dispositif but he did agree with Herr Brandt that as there is a definite political link between Bonn's treaty with Moscow, European security conference and a satisfactory solution in the Berlin problem.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 27 January 1971)

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■ POLITICS

CDU 'heavyweights' in pitched battle at Düsseldorf party conference

If Konrad Adenauer is able to look down from the heavenly heights at the party he once led, the Christian Democratic Union, he will be amazed and if his stay in paradise has given him the benevolence that he lacked as a mortal he may even smile weakly.

A CDU party political conference which has taken three days simply and solely to discuss and formulate a new party programme would have been verging on the impossible in his day.

In those times the name Adenauer was the only programme the CDU needed and the Old Man held as little store by party programmes in black and white as Franz Josef Strauss does today.

But after a long delay the need has now been felt in the ranks of the CDU for the party to have a definite programme.

Even though it is merely small factions at the Düsseldorf party political conference that are haggling over the niceties of the programme's formulation, sometimes no more than individual words being in dispute, the fact remains that nobody there is not involved.

The feeling is practically universal at the conference that the party will not be able to have a say in tomorrow's world unless guidelines are clearly drawn up.

The days are gone when the CDU's political activities were governed by the expedients of the day in the Bundestag — a kind of off-the-cuff politics.

Today's CDU feels it will slip behind the other parties and lose ground hopelessly if it does not provide programmed answers to all the major problems in today's politics.

The zeitgeist that calls for ideologically flavoured party political programmes seems to have caught the Christian Democrats in its spell at last. No other explanation can be given for the shape of this conference in Düsseldorf, especially in a situation where the solution of the problem of party leadership came before the "extropolation" of the Berlin Programme that was drawn up just two years previously.

But, as this party political conference confirms, it is more difficult for the CDU to draw up a programme than for the Social Democrats or Free Democrats.

The SPD has its socialist tradition, and even though it has had to make some adjustments to basic ideas to bring them up to date these socialist ideas give the party a firm basis on which to work. In the FDP whenever doubts arise there are always the good old liberal ideals to fall back on.

The CDU has no such basis, and if the point was repeatedly raised in Düsseldorf that the CDU was a party of the centre this was just the acceptance of an undeniable fact of life.

Christian Democrats cannot ever too far to the left or they will lose their middle-class and industrial support. If they move too far to the right they will antagonise their trade union supporters.

They would have to hold a middle-of-the-road position, therefore, even if the various currents that carry their supporters and voters along were not also the motive power behind their delegates.

Whenever the pendulum swings to one side or the other, certain politicians and factions may be particularly pleased or disappointed. Major swings of the pendulum are ruled out by the nature of the CDU as a popular party. But at the same time a clear unambiguous line cannot be drawn.

This lack of room for manoeuvre in drawing up party programmes means that discussions at party political conferences

can only be of interest to experts in the various fields of discussion.

For the great mass of delegates and for observers these debates are usually quite boring however heated they may become.

It is impossible to put a tag on the party. From the various individual decisions that are taken it is possible to assume that greater emphasis than before is being placed now on national ideas, now on social ideas, now on Christian ideas. But in every case there are opposite examples put forward.

As the Opposition the CDU now of course tends to draw its lines of demarcation so that it is marked off from the SPD-led government. This serves as an explanation for many decisions taken and for many speeches made in political discussions.

No one should be led astray by this. As the government the CDU would in many cases act far differently from the way in which its politicians are talking and the decisions they are taking today, as the Opposition.

As far as the leading lights in the party are concerned their main concern is to tread on nobody's toes until the question of the party leadership and candidate for chancellor is settled.

In the interviews for the party political conference communiqué the two main contenders for the CDU 'championship', Rainer Barzel and Helmut Kohl were even cautious when asked what their favourite colour was! Barzel said he did not know and Kohl said 'blue and red'. Even if the question of 'the party leadership' is not officially on the Düsseldorf agenda it is a topic that no one is losing sight of!

Everything the contenders say, every move they make is in the glare of publicity and in the eyes of party members. Whenever Kohl makes a suggestion for a point in the party programme that is accepted by the majority the ringside judges record the fair blow and award Kohl a point.

If Barzel manages to duck the blow of an imminent quarrel by poring with a suggested compromise the crowd in the ringside seats applaud and admire his skill as an intermediary.

All in all Barzel seems to be leading on points at the party political conference 'promotions'. His speeches have carried weight and he has moved with skill.

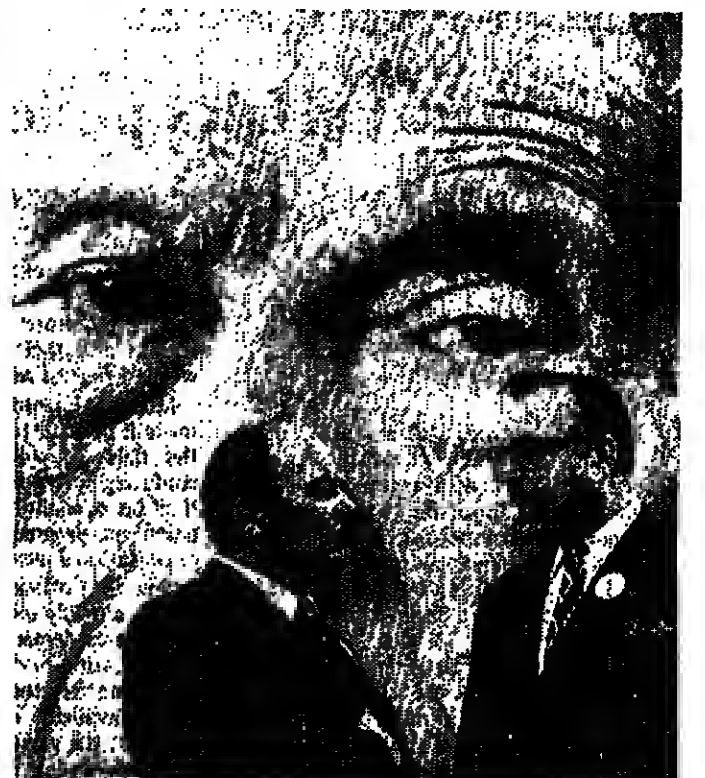
Actually he was only supposed to be presenting a situation report on the parliamentary party's work, but in the process he has presented himself to the

delegates as the man who fights the politics game cleanly and purposefully. He attacks all-comers remorselessly and always finds the word that stings.

If Barzel does not make a grave error in the coming months and at the next party political conference in the autumn is able to make a powerful impression as he did at Düsseldorf no one will challenge him as party chairman.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannov. Allgemeine, 27 January 1971)



Rainer Barzel and Helmut Kohl in Düsseldorf for the CDU party conference (Photo: dpa)

Were their journeys really necessary?

Gerhard Schröder's trip to Moscow and Rainer Barzel's visit to Warsaw have done nothing to clarify the Opposition's attitude towards the treaties signed by the Brandt government with Russia and Poland.

As both politicians were treated most courteously by their hosts this seems to indicate that the Russians and Poles are interested in broadening the basis of the Moscow and Warsaw Treaties within the Federal Republic.

But as far as the Opposition is concerned these two State visits came too late to make any difference. Politically speaking they might have been worthwhile trips if they had been made earlier while the negotiations were still going on and the treaties had not been signed.

Even then there would have been no guarantee that Moscow and Warsaw would want to listen to Opposition ideas that have fallen on deaf ears even in Bonn.

There was nothing for Barzel and Schröder to do on this occasion but accept a *fait accompli*. These trips did not even serve the cause of helping the two opposition members to find out the truth behind the treaties. So what was the point of them?

Of course meetings between this country's Opposition politicians and the powers that be in the East are of value. But what will the upshot be? Will they engender doubts about whether the treaties should be ratified? Or does the

Opposition see these visits as an essential part of a tactical withdrawal to a position that differs from that of the government only in split hairs?

These are questions that the two travellers will have to answer to the satisfaction of other party members and CDU voters.

The four-power talks on Berlin seem to have reached stalemate again. *Pravda* has again spoken out against a link between ratification of the two treaties with the East and a satisfactory settlement of the Berlin question.

Russia has turned the tables on this country by demanding that ratification should come first as a sign of our goodwill and as an initiative to create a favourable climate for talks on Berlin.

What attitude will the Opposition adopt? Will they follow the initiative of Eugen Gerstenmaier and insist that the Bundestag follow article 79 of Basic Law by assessing whether the contracts are in accordance with constitutional requirements before ratifying them? Or will they go to the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe?

Will they call for new elections? Are they taking the line that a satisfactory solution of the Berlin problem would be a compensation for the things they feel have been given away in the treaties with the East Bloc?

The Opposition will soon have to be ready to give a clear answer on its attitude towards ratification. And the CDU and CSU will have to come to an agreement on the procedural methods by which they plan to introduce their objections to the treaties from the floor of the Bundestag.

The Warsaw and Moscow treaties have a decided bearing on this country's future. But they will also be decisive for the Opposition's future. The government has certainly been open enough in its attitudes on foreign policy. It has gone out on a limb but the Opposition has been very slow to take advantage of the opportunities thus offered to attack it.

Since Adenauer's death the CDU has forgotten its sense of priorities. It fears that one day it will have to serve a goose that has been cooked for it by another government and this is an unattractive basis for a party which is constantly reassuring us that it wants to return to power.

The electorate is Opposition clear cut tactical as well as political.

(WELT am SONNTAG)

Stücklen threatens 'separatism'

The question of what would have happened to the CDU/CSU and this country as a whole if there had been no Konrad Adenauer is nothing more than a test for the imagination, but it is a question that is repeatedly being asked now that the Christian Democrats have gone into a decline.

What is at present happening in the CDU and between them and the CSU goes far beyond the bound of normal party squabbles and rivalry.

The threat made by Richard Stücklen, chairman of the CSU Bavarian parliamentary party in the Bundestag, that he would dissolve the parliamentary party links between the CDU and CSU if the Düsseldorf programme of the Bavarian right-wing party is not approved, shows the extent of the discord in Opposition ranks.

OVERSEAS PROGRAMMES

Cultural affairs policies abroad overhauled

CULTURAL ADVISERS WITH BROAD EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The troublesome, still stagnant, much discussed and sometimes over-discussed subject of our cultural affairs policy abroad cannot be solved primarily by changing personnel-selection policy.

Diplomats, usually with a legal background, view administrative knowledge and practice as the main criteria for a cultural attaché.

The cultural affairs section of the Foreign Office is not exactly the most sought after department and it is not a springboard to the better positions abroad the fresh start made in Walter Scheel's Ministry under the new head of the Cultural Affairs Department, Hans-Georg Steltzer, is twofold.

New guidelines have been set defining what cultural affairs policy abroad could and should be and an overall plan for cultural relations abroad has been drawn up based on a large scale survey of the current situation.

The two steps are interlinked. Acquiescence in the proposal that cultural affairs policy abroad should no longer serve the aim of self-representation but result from talks with one or more partners would not help the aimlessness and fortuitousness of our cultural relations.

It was Ralf Dahrendorf's idea during his short stay at the Foreign Office to survey the present situation through a searching questionnaire.

Professor Felsert of Constance, a professor of sociology, carried out the survey on behalf of the Foreign Office. Foreign missions, cultural institutes abroad, schools and advisers contributed to the

overall picture of existing contacts as well as providing a general view of the different cultural interests of countries, regions and their social forms, in other words a general view of the demand.

Modern quantification methods have made it possible to gain an overall view of the field of cultural relations that is confusing even for experts. There can then be overall direction. This venture is based on programming, a long overdue organisational measure.

Now that officials know what methods can be sensibly used where and the places and classes demanding science, technology, education or culture in the traditional representative sense of the term, staff and money available can be used in such a way that the value of individual details is always taken into account.

Within large regions priorities can be set for where cultural affairs policy is to be linked with foreign policy, though without the cultural affairs policy being made a direct or indirect political tool, thus losing its credibility.

Schools and cultural institutes abroad and the many other campaigns of various types will profit from coordination. This is guaranteed by the rationality of the overall planning and the inbuilt safeguards for constant correction.

The 1971 Budget provides some 300 million Marks for cultural services abroad. As this money can now be used more rationally, there will be more benefit for all concerned.

The bold new guiding principle that the concept of culture must be understood in the context of "the dynamic process of change in our society" is remarkable, especially as it comes from a Ministry with a conservative function and tradition.

This principle is right — this is the only way to carry out cultural activities in the various regions of the world and at the same time take account of the changed concept of culture throughout the world.

This does not lessen the number of problems. Unpleasant experiences have shown that setting limits can cause difficulties with our partners, not to mention internal problems of jurisdiction.

There are already misunderstandings. This country's Sports Association for instance interprets the modern version of the concept of culture in such a way that embassies' cultural affairs advisers would also be responsible for international sporting relations in future.

In the face of this sort of expectation the Foreign Office will probably have to adhere to the ruling that "cultural diplomats" — who will in future be exempt from the transfer system usual for their colleagues — have enough to do with the world's cultural elite.

It is proposed that cultural advisers should in future not only have a general enough education and be well informed but should also know about social issues. Bonn realises that special courses are needed as well as periodic informational seminars.

This reorientation has a number of effects. We can only hope with Minister Scheel that the creative, as he says, or the spontaneous, as we would like to add, is not lost.

The actual work will not begin until the new organisational basis has been set up and everybody has the feeling that he is part of the whole and being used correctly. We are now back to personality.

Karl Korn
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 26 January 1971)

Foreign Office draws up new cultural affairs guidelines

the frequently overemphasised self-representation of past years.

For the reformers, the German language is no longer protected in the new guidelines. The German language is to be "the means and not the aim of our work abroad". It is to be encouraged where it is a suitable means of communication in traditionally German-speaking areas and has a future.

The new guidelines free themselves from elements of national prestige: "In other parts of the world it should be more practical for the aims of exchange and cooperation to use whatever language is most common."

German schools abroad are to be centres of cultural exchange awarding diplomas recognised in the host country and at home.

The cultural institutes are to attach "considerably more importance" to scientific and sociological information. Their work should conform even more to the wishes and interests of the host country.

Sigismund von Braun, the new State Secretary on the European Council, and Hans-Georg Steltzer, the new head of the Cultural Affairs Department, are to help the Foreign Office make up its mind in the extension of multilateral relations and cooperation in international organisations.

The Federal Republic's participation in UNESCO has stood in the forefront since

Herbert Blankenhorn, the former ambassador, was elected on to the supreme controlling committee of this international organisation.

Von Braun and Steltzer are to give precedence to supporting all efforts serving European unification.

The renewed offer to the German Democratic Republic to stress the common German language, history and culture in the world has just met with East Berlin's refusal.

Despite East Berlin's principle of aloofness and isolation the Foreign Office plans to uphold its offer to seek common ground in the international sphere.

It has been pointed out that the GDR is not fulfilling one UNESCO obligation if it opposes cooperation in the cultural sphere.

There have been no very intensive negotiations with East Bloc countries up to now. "The rhythm is unchanged even though Rumania, Yugoslavia and Hungary are now more interested."

The Foreign Office has also stated that no "spectacular" cultural programmes are expected with our two treaty partners, the Soviet Union and Poland.

The new guidelines recommend a strengthening of relations with countries of the Third World and exchanges with Eastern European states as examples of regional priorities. Werner Diederichs

(DIE WELT, 15 January 1971)

Cultural affairs policies become more democratic

Frankfurter Rundschau

Cultural affairs policies have long been the poor relation of our foreign policy. The aphorism that politics has been unable to change the situation.

Neither have attempts by Foreign Ministers Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel place cultural diplomacy on the level as its older sisters, classical diplomacy and economic diplomacy.

There are reasons for this. Many democrats are suspicious of all cultural policies abroad since experience what Hitler did with them.

Many good democrats were also distrustful of the attempt to adorn the State with art and artists as they feared a perversion of art, a sinking of the spirit, at best, reluctant coexistence.

This has changed. The concept of culture has been freed from identification with the fine arts and has been defined in the "totality of human life" by the social Democrat deputy Martin and his policy" by Free Democrat Ralf Dahrendorf.

Hans-Georg Steltzer, head of the Foreign Office's Cultural Affairs Department, thus had the chance of creating a more than ten years ago. The first two making an important contribution to the work of our diplomatic service.

"Culture is today no longer a privilege of the elite but something for everybody", it says in the new guidelines for cultural affairs policy abroad sent out to the Federal Republic's missions abroad.

That may go against the grain of people who still remain fond of the traditions of diplomacy as an art of communication between rulers.

But it is a necessary profession of democratic nature of communication between peoples that may be long and painstaking but are sensible and in line with our times.

Various principles are given expression in our cultural affairs policy abroad:

1. Cultural affairs policy is not one-way self-representation but an exchange of cooperation. It must be remembered that the best cultural propaganda for Germany was made by people like Schliemann in Greece, Humboldt in South America and Müller in India, men who did not spread German culture through the world but hoped foreign peoples improve the culture.

2. Culture needs creative inspiration and cultural affairs policy State planning. It is no longer a question of as many people as possible learning about the German spirit or at least learning the German language. Cultural work abroad must begin with market analyses and include controls of success. The first systematic control in Iran produced informative results.

3. Cultural affairs are the business of the State and private backers. The State provides guidelines and takes the sharpest out of rivalries but allows the innumerable organisation doing practical work abroad freedom of development and gives them financial support.

Apart from these progressive principles there are two plain trends — an internationalisation of our cultural work (the advantages of this may be disputed) and

Continued on page 6

BOOK REVIEWS

A modern classic on German history

Hajo Holborn: German History in Modern Times. Volume I, 641 pages, 8 Marks; Volume II, 464 pages, 38 Marks; Published in 1970 by R. Oldenbourg of Munich and Vienna.

Hajo Holborn was born in Berlin in 1902, studied history under Friedrich Meinecke and Otto Hintze and became Professor at the Berlin Political Academy in 1931 before being forced to emigrate in 1933.

He occupied chairs at several large universities in the United States and level as its older sisters, classical diplomacy and economic diplomacy.

He became the American member of the group publishing the *Files of German Foreign Policy* and died in 1969 while on a visit to Bonn.

He became the American member of the group publishing the *Files of German Foreign Policy* and died in 1969 while on a visit to Bonn.

At the same time he said, it had also been begun in the hope of not only reaching a wider international audience but also of giving German readers the book at a moment when their relationship to German history was confused by the impression of current events and pressing issues.

His wife has provided an excellent translation of the work and with complete understanding for the vocabulary used in German histories.

But it was written for an American audience who between 1950 and 1955 only had limited interest in German history and very little knowledge that the author could base his work on.

It was written fifteen years ago when we in Germany were still in the initial stages of writing a modern history enriched by social and economic events. At that time we had "only a restricted selection of special studies."

Continued from page 4

As a preliminary stage on the way toward cooperation, competition with the German Democratic Republic, indisputably a realistic and progressive recommendation.

What with international involvement and German competition, not enough attention is being paid to the European elements of the cultural affairs policy, cooperation with other Common Market countries on each other's and foreign territory. Everybody speaks of the common European cultural heritage — something ought to be done about it.

Rolf Breitenstein

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 January 1971)

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It is true that Holborn wrote a biography of Hutten in 1929 and subsequently edited Erasmus' works in Christian philosophy. While still in Germany he wrote an essay on *Protestantism and the History of Political Ideas* and even one on the issue of guilt in the First World War.

But looking at it today, it is all from the middle generation of the Meinecke School, which knew only the beginnings, if anything at all, about the historical questions now concerning us.

Holborn's *German History* has — on good grounds — not been provided with a list of sources, a bibliography or even an Index. These would have clearly shown that the author had only paid minimal consideration to post-war histories appearing in this country and then only up to 1950 at the latest.

Until the Thirty Years War the first volume is a plain old-style report. Only after the Thirty Years War does the work gain colour, breadth and depth. Viewpoints and judgments increase from chapter to chapter and generation to generation. This is the point where Holborn has reflected and researched independently over the last twenty years.

Holborn reaches his climax in *Liberalism and Nationalism from 1840 to 1871* in the second half of the second volume. He is able to give a competent report of the links between politics, culture and economics during this period.

Holborn's work reflects, for personal reasons and because of the time when he wrote, the view and depletion of a generation that already belongs to history.

Present-day students will reach for *German History*, the first volume at least, as they do to Ranke. Holborn was already a historian of classic standing even before his magnum opus appeared. But there is little demand for classicists today.

(DIE ZEIT, 15 January 1971)

A political reader

Absagen an die Zukunft (Renunciation of the Future) by Johannes Gross. Published by Soelaß-Verlag of Frankfurt am Main. 247 pages. 20 Marks.

who modestly remain in the vicinity of the present cannot meddle with the future."

Gross intentionally steers clear of a systematic representation of politics — this he leaves to political ideologists. In his own way he tries to put history on its feet again and in such a fashion that current affairs are analysed and thus brought to the attention of contemporaries.

It is of course self-evident that flash-backs into history continually provide the background for the interpretations of the events of today.

The work that Gross has collected and revised here and that has been attractively prepared by the publisher is a cross-section of his journalistic activity in recent years.

A lot of the book is based on manuscripts that Gross, now editor-in-chief of Deutsche Welle, the radio station, wrote for his radio programmes. Other articles appeared in the columns of well-known periodicals.

He not only appears as a "pragmatic adviser" but given that title to the fourth chapter of his book that discusses mainly the parliamentary situation in Bonn.

Gross betrays his legal studies here when dealing with questions of plebiscite of the political consequences of a majority electoral law.

Gross reveals himself as an experienced

Not for expert readers

The Christian Democrats in Opposition, edited by Dietrich Rollmann. Published by Christian Wegner of Hamburg. 165 pages. 12.80 Marks.

Fourteen authors, including prominent Christian Democrat politicians, have expressed their opinions on various political subjects in concise and generally comprehensible language in this book edited by Dietrich Rollmann, suggesting possible solutions to problems from the viewpoint of the CDU as an Opposition party.

Rainer Barzel writes about the role of the Opposition, Richard von Weizsäcker on this country's Ostpolitik and Westpolitik, Ernst Müller-Hermann on economic and financial policy, Horst Schröder on educational policy.

Hans Katzer deals with social services policy. Fritz Burgbacher with policies concerning personal property, Carl Otto Lenz with ways to develop further the federal system, Friedrich Vogel with legal policy, Franz Meyers with conservation, Dr. Rüdiger Göb with the integrated building and town planning.

Arthur Rathke discusses the CDU and mass media, Wulf Schönbohm the CDU and the New Left, Peter Radunski the mobilisation of the CDU and Dietrich Rollmann finishes off the book with his article *The Christian Democrats in Opposition*.

Anybody interested in the essential political aims and ideas of the Opposition, its alternative programme and its judgment of present government policies should read these essays.

The book is certainly of use to those people wanting to learn something about politics but it provides few new aspects for demanding professional readers.

(Das Parlament, 16 January 1971)

observer of the Bonn scene when suggesting that the Bundestag should prune its committee system and arrange many more full debates.

The Bundestag, Gross says, must once again discover that the public is the first element of democracy. Discussion is the second.

Gross is a harsh critic. He refuses to tune down his attacks when revealing past mistakes. His language becomes noticeably concise at points like this: "In recent years the Bundestag has completely failed as a plenary body."

In another example, in which he is also looking at the governments of other countries, he writes, "We live in the golden age of mediocrity; insignificance holds sway."

Whether we agree with the author or not, sentences like this are typical of his style. He deliberately uses emphatic language when describing political situations.

But he does not only refer to politics in his *Renunciation of the Future*. In chapters entitled *Reflexes or Studies of the Contemporary Spirit* he also mentions ethics and religion and, above all, refers to sociological questions.

It is not only here that there is an occasional flash of suppressed irony. The fact that the philosopher Seneca complained about the polluted air in Rome in 661 A.D. will be carefully noted by conservationists in the Bundestag and perhaps worked into one of their next speeches.

The work is a political reader for the educated among their victims, as the publishers say. Indeed the book contains a number of contributions, thoughts and recommendations that are well worth reading and examining.

(Das Parlament, 16 January 1971)

THE ARTS

Best-ever Schwitters exhibition opens in Düsseldorf

Hannoversche Allgemeine

There was a large crowd of visitors, people from museums and pressmen in Düsseldorf's *Kunsthalle* for the Kurt Schwitters Retrospective, an exhibition that will, until the beginning of March, enable the public to see a more thorough selection of his works than was ever possible before.

Several private owners and public institutions from home and abroad have parted with their paintings for a short while. Ernst Schwitters, the artist's son, and the Marlborough Gallery of London and New York deserve special thanks for making this exhibition possible.

It is Werner Schmalenbach more than anyone else who had led to Kurt Schwitters being in the forefront of artistic interest more than twenty years after his death.

Even when director of the Kestner Society he always drew the public's notice to Schwitters. He made it possible for Schwitters, a native of Hannover, to regain the attention he deserved after making a name for himself in the twenties and early thirties and disappearing from many people's memory during the Nazi regime and the Second World War.

Thorough study of his works since then has led to the recognition he is now beginning to receive.

The Düsseldorf exhibition which will later be seen in Berlin, Stuttgart and Basel can be viewed as the final stage of this process.

The exhibition traces Kurt Schwitters' development from the first academically painted still lifes via the MERZ pictures and collages to the photographs of the uncompleted MERZ building in the English village of Little Langdale. It underlines the importance of his art for his period and documents his role as that of a modern classicist.

The catalogue is therefore arranged as a sort of documentation that also deals with his literary works.

This is correct and necessary as Schwitters was not only a painter, a graphic artist, a producer of collages, a typographer and a novelist - what he was altogether cannot be summed up in one word.

He was an all-round artist, a total artist who was convinced that all values exist only by reason of their relations with one another and that all restriction to one material was petty and narrow-minded.

"Realising this, I formed MERZ, first as the sum of the individual art genres, MERZ painting, MERZ poetry... My ultimate aim is the unification of art and non-art in a total MERZ picture of the world," he wrote. The word MERZ incidentally is nothing more than one of the syllables of *Commerzbank* to be found in one of his compositions.

There need be no detailed explanation of the extent to which his MERZ art anticipated present efforts to use practically all materials that exist for artistic production.

His *Breite Schmirchel* of 1923 for example would be worthy of any progressive art exhibition today and anyone not in the know would not realise that this work is almost fifty years old.

There are many connections between Schwitters' works and modern art. Visitors to the exhibition have a marvellous opportunity of pursuing individual trends and making their own discoveries.

Even when visitors know what effect Schwitters has had on modern art, they are still often enough surprised to find how collages like *Fran-Uhr* (1921) and *Glückliche Ehe* (1939) anticipate the Pop Art of an artist like Rauschenberg.

They are surprised to see how his painting *Motiv: Verschiebung* (1930) reminds them of Poliakoff and how his Constructivist reliefs - *MERZ 1924, I, Relief mit Kreuz und Kugel* (1924) for example - are undeniably close to the works of Constructivists today.

These are only a few examples of the many that prove that a lot of what is now proclaimed *denier cri* was thought of long ago by Kurt Schwitters whose works were usually more original and of better quality.

It is also revealing to observe how Schwitters came to terms with Expressionism during his development in the years around 1920, only to develop purposefully his own never-congealing style after piecing and nailing together his first MERZ pictures.

His style was always developing - he was much too dynamic a person with too many all-round interests for anything other to happen.

He was opposed to bourgeois life. His scorn of antiquated conventions brought him into conflict with the society of his times. But he did it in his own extremely humorous fashion like a latter-day Till Eulenspiegel.

His position concerning the Dadaists is important in this context. The Dadaists wanted to destroy the values that had been handed down from age to age. Schwitters did not want this - he was no revolutionary.

He tried to rebuild from the debris of a lost war and a revolution. From the twisted wheels of baby's prams, from shelves, used tickets, posters and newspaper cuttings he made a whole, he turned them into art.

Schwitters' achievements as a master of collage, his formal imagination and the subtle sense of colour he shows in his collages are simply astonishing and can be seen in a large number of his works.

It will not have escaped attentive observers that often even the tiniest collages of his have a greater artistic effect than the large MERZ pictures.

Ernst Schwitters came to Düsseldorf for the opening of the exhibition and spoke about his father. He retold an anecdote that is often repeated incorrectly.

One day Kurt Schwitters and Laszlo Maholy-Nagy, the Bauhaus artist, wanted to call on George Grosz in Berlin. They rang his bell and Grosz himself came to the door.

When he noticed Schwitters, whom he did not particularly like, he said, "I'm sorry, Herr Grosz is not at home" and slammed the door.

When the two men had got downstairs, Schwitters turned round and rang Grosz's bell once again. As Grosz opened the door again, Schwitters said, "And my name's not Kurt Schwitters" and disappeared.

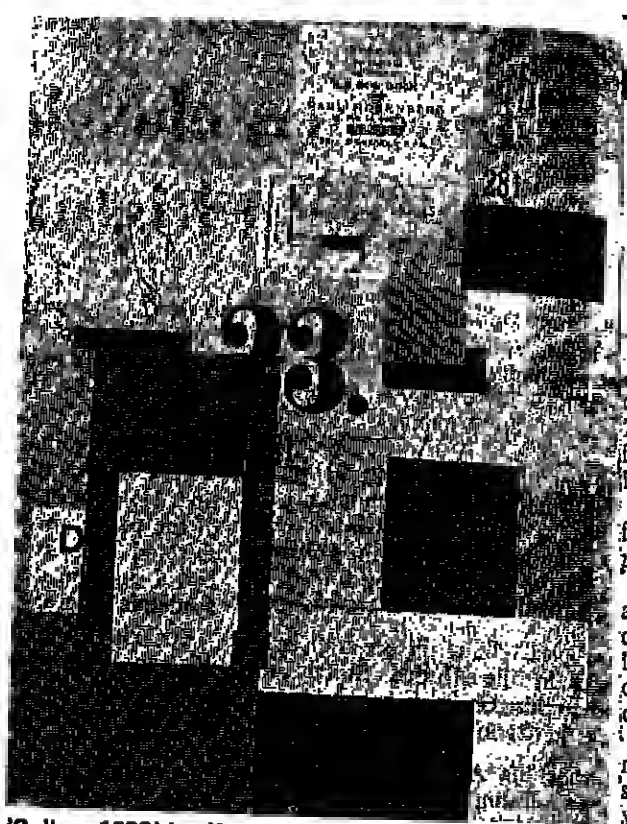
But life plays its tricks. Along with the Schwitters exhibition, the Düsseldorf *Kunsthalle* is currently showing an exhibition of the drawings and watercolours of George Grosz.

Rudolf Lange
(Hannover, Allgemeine, 20 January 1971)

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Rudolf Lange
(Hannover, Allgemeine, 20 January 1971)



Collage 1923 by Kurt Schwitters (Photo: K. Engel)

Realism tends to replace literary creativity

The frontiers of literature are being crossed and its borders obliterated in a process that has already affected music, the creative arts and the theatre.

Arno Schmidt's monster work *Zettel's Traum* is one example with its visual arrangement of text and information. Schmidt was preceded by other writers like Alexander Kluge in his *Schlachtengedächtnis*, a description of the Battle of Stalingrad.

The painstaking montage of pure information, commentary and personal views could also be found in Helmut Claessen's first novel *D'Alemberts Ende*.

Collage and montage have become popular literary methods. The authors using them normally belong to the younger generation who on the whole mistrust the "form of language" as what they describe as manipulation. These young writers have no pretensions to wit and culture, they claim, and dispute the credibility of a formed reality.

Of course they do not notice, or do not want to notice, that their collages - Peter Chotjewitz's *Trap*, a radio play consisting of police radio messages and statements by policemen and demonstrators, for instance, or Wolf Wondratschek's clever montages of platitudes with socially critical sound effects - obey the law of tendentious manipulation just as much, if not more.

Readers should not however shun the frequently alarming details uncovered in the polemic literature of these young social critics.

Like prose writers, poets too often exceed the limits of the creatively poetical and people ranging from Horst Bienek to Günter Herburger now only compose their poems out of particles of reality like advertising slogans or traffic regulations.

Their aim is to end the period of creative writers were dominant and introduce elements from the everyday of this world into the literary sphere.

There is no doubt that such form literary production - like Pop Art - attract new sections of the public, especially the young. This has been proved over the years by a new type of incorporating jazz and poetry.

But the degree of reality in the works of this type, whether poetry or drama, cannot be determined solely by the quantity of words, sentences, phrases and platitudes taken from reality we know.

Speaking about this, Heinrich Dille said, "Reality cannot express itself as a novelist who creates it with methods".

For that reason the efforts of *Verkkreis '70* in its treatment of the subject of the world of labour have been so completely neglected here. Its post-war era are only of literary value so far as creative qualities are concerned with the informational value. There are some interesting examples in a paperback volume entitled *Verkkreis '70 - Ein Bauern stürzt um*.

In 1970 a literature congress in Cologne arranged by the three bookish organisations in the German-speaking world drew public attention to the question of whether literary periods had survived in an age of mass media's speedier information.

Many people at the congress said literary periodicals were dead. Defeat of this type of publication were quite point out that most literary periodicals including Schiller's *Jahres*, had never economic nor had they had a long life.

One thing is certain and that is - they are no longer able to act as the germ cells of literary life to the extent as in the past.

One exception must be mentioned here, if only because of its tenth anniversary at the end of last year, and the *Manuskripte*, the Graz publication.

This monthly edited by Alfred K. Ierisch and Günter Waldorf has acted as a germ cell for Austria at least and has astonishingly sure instinct for new developments. Names like H.C. Artmann, Peter Handke, Ernst Jandl, Frieder Mayrhofer and Peter Matekna often make their first appearance in this periodical.

Klaus Colberg
(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 January 1971)

OPERA

Fassbinder's 'Beggar's Opera' too cramped

John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*, written in 1728, is now being presented in a distorted 1971 version at Frankfurt's *Theater am Turm*. The man responsible for turning Polly into Polle and Peachum into Peach is Reiner Werner Fassbinder.

His version is much further removed from the original than Brecht's *Three-penny Opera*.

The action is cramped, the dialogues are cramped and the characters are cramped. They no longer act on the impulse of their own vitality, but react to outside impulses such as sex, money and crime.

Or they express ineffable emotions, mostly in songs that drip with sickly sentimentality, for which Peer Raben wrote the music. His score is an ironic accompaniment with a trio, made up of a flute, saxophone and guitar, or a piano and drums and alternates among beat-music, Boccherini and nursery songs!

Frankfurt's *TuT* is the first theatre to present this performance again, three years after it was premiered at the then *Münchentheater*.

A reasonable decision, despite the fact that the *TuT* programme for this season claims to present lively plays aware of criticism, while at the same time keeping a wary eye open for new dramatic solutions.

This Fassbinder distortion has a justified place in the repertoire despite its weaknesses.

R. W. Fassbinder's "rudimentary Theatre" throws a floodlamp on a society that is crippled and distorted by material grabbing and hypocritical morality and at the same time it brings into play dramatic possibilities that have not yet been used to their full advantage on the contemporary stage.

For this to come off it is essential that the director and the cast understand the Fassbinder style, which is a distillation of the folk-theatre style.

It is not simple to act the clichéd ideas (rather than flesh-and-blood human beings) that the characters in these plays reduce themselves to. But that is what Fassbinderism is all about. The ego is sacrificed to some kind of ideologically prefabricated picture of mankind.

Peach and his wife are militant bourgeois, Polle and Lucy form a commune without really knowing what that means and put up with the sexual degradation of Mecki (late MacHeath, the bandit-hero) a weary protesting kind of guy who idles away his day and goes around on his back for money.

This Frankfurt production has no director and has been produced by the actors' collective. Obviously a great deal of pioneering effort has gone into it. The scenery is stylised, postures and gestures are stylised and turned into a kind of body talk, which, if correctly carried off, says far more than the cramped dialogues.

But this has not turned out so successfully as is the case in Fassbinder's films or when the *autheater* performed Goldoni's *Kaffeehaus* in Frankfurt under Fassbinder's direction.

The Frankfurt performance lacked the close atmosphere which motivates the ponderousness of the characters and should penetrate through the long pauses in dialogue.

But the entrance of the whores Vava and Didi are embarrassing. I doubt whether they can really be considered to be acting with the kind of loose clowning, according to Fassbinder's direction that the scene is a quote from Laurel and Hardy.

Excessive demands are made on the two actresses (Fruke Jansen and Karin Wehner) and the most they manage is a kind of distorted reminiscence of *Die Nächte der Cabiria*. They make obscene jokes so that their prurient accord with the audience is assured. But they do not get across the point that the people in this play are so lacking in sensuousness that the only way they can experience sex is through inventory-wall jokes.

This performance throws up clear types: Macki, played by Claus Dieter Reents, a picture of lascivious, living boredom; the heavyweight, peach-shaped thundering Peach of Heinz Kraehkamp; the pertly lithe singing Polle of Christine Müller. Other outstanding members of the cast are: Renate Gehlen, Ortrud Teichert and Michael Altmann and the musicians Joachim Delchiel, Hansgeorg Rumpf and Thomas Wattering.

Rainer Hartmann
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 15 January 1971)



A scene from Fassbinder's version of 'The Beggar's Opera' staged in Frankfurt (Photo: Götter Engler)



A scene from Fassbinder's version of 'The Beggar's Opera' staged in Frankfurt (Photo: Götter Engler)

Berlin's 'Boris Godunov' given rapturous applause

Mysterious people with lost identities such as the Anstas case are no longer of much general interest and are left as the concern of welfare authorities and the various press factions.

Once upon a time, however, an anti-Tsar without any royal blood was able to achieve not only his own grace, but also that of the whole Russian people by driving the legitimate ruler, Boris, to death.

Boris Godunov cleared his path from the seat of the Boyars to the Tsar's throne by a political assassination as well, but this was just part of the everyday courtly life, as the later confrontation with the anti-Tsar Dimlry and his later death, which was also by violence.

Modest Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* in the literary version by Pushkin and Karamsin's historical version of the story is justifiably designated a "folk drama".

It is precisely the brutal customs of the day that make killing one's rival an accepted part of the road to power that remove Boris' fate from the realms of the individual.

Mussorgsky's folk drama is far more a historical tableau or chronicle than an opera of the usual kind. But the nineteenth century demanded opera and operatic heroes.

So Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov in his version of *Boris Godunov* - the one that

is still preferred by opera houses - puts the death of the Tsar at the end of the action and produces a greater dramatic effect. His more voluptuous score is also more in the mould of good old-fashioned opera.

Dimitry Shostakovich, however, gave new life to *Boris Godunov*. His version contented itself with careful modernisation of the instrumentation and follows Mussorgsky's original version fairly faithfully. The opera no longer ends with the death of the Tsar, but with the disconsolate quiet song of the clairvoyant demented member of the people.

Berlin's Deutsche Oper after the fiasco of *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Der Barbier*, following a production of *Der Rosenkavalier* that is at least worth listening to, has now come up with its best premiere for a long time, this production of *Boris Godunov*.

The clear Shostakovich-Mussorgsky tunes are every bit as suited to Lorin Maazel's style as Rimsky-Korsakov's music is to Herbert von Karajan's conducting.

The cast by no means lowered the high level set by the conductor and the orchestra. Martti Talvela sang Boris and was unselfish in his handling of the death scene, the high point of the work, in his dialogue with Prince Shusky, sung by Helmut Malchert.

Helmut Kreba sang the clairvoyant demented man, Janis Martin was Marina, Bengt Rundgran took the part of Piman, Carlo Cossuta was Dimitry and José van Dam sang Rangoni.

Rudolf Sellner's production was too schematically conventional in the choral parts, but for the rest managed to follow the golden mean.

Michel Raffalli's stage settings are in the main movable walls and metallic columns. The effect of this is well set-off by colourful, but not overdone painting. Only the collage techniques seemed out of place considering the conservativeness of the rest of the production.

Raffalli's decently extravagant costumes were far more in keeping with this and the audience gave this production a rapturous ovation.

Joachim Matzner
(DIE ZEIT, 22 January 1971)



Martti Talvela singing the title role in Berlin's production of 'Boris Godunov' (Photo: dpa)

Plays chosen for Theatre Gathering

The jury for the Berlin Theatre Gathering being held this year from 15 to 26 May has now selected the first five productions of plays from the German-language stage.

The plays are Chekhov's *Cherry Tree* produced by Rudolf Noelle of Munich's Residenztheater, Brecht's version of Marlowe's *Edward II* produced by Hans Hollmann of Munich Kammertheater, Lessing's *Emilia Galotti* produced by Fritz Körner at Vienna's Theater in der Josefstadt, Brecht's version of Gorki's *Mother* produced by Wolfgang Schwiedrzik, Frank P. Steckel and Peter Stein at the Schaubühne Hallesches Ufer in Berlin and Peter Handke's *Das Mundel will Vormund sein* produced by Peter Fitz at Berlin's Forum Theater.

Klaus Colberg
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 January 1971)

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Klaus Colberg
(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 January 1971)

EDUCATION

Law of supply and demand may cause reduction of graduates' pay

In 1969 a total of 421,000 students were registered in the Federal Republic and the government education report forecasts that there will be 680,000 new students in 1975 and one million in 1980. In the course of the next ten years therefore the student population will more than double.

From the beginning of the century until the end of the fifties a round five per cent of any schoolyear would go on to study. In recent years this proportion has increased to fifteen per cent.

The forecasts contained in the government education report are based on the assumption that 25 per cent of any schoolyear will go on to study in 1980.

In the United States, a much praised country when it comes to educational comparisons, 35 per cent of any school-year go on to further study today. But it must be borne in mind that though some universities there are among the world's best there are also some that would hardly reach high school standard in Europe.

It is not worth asking what proportion of the total population of a country have the intellectual talent to pursue a course of academic study seriously and successfully.

Hordes of scientists have racked their brains on this subject without ever finding a clearly satisfactory answer.

Judging the unused talent reserves optimistically, the student figures forecast may correspond to the educable elite of the Federal Republic.

But the planned aim of the education report - that one in four people will be able to continue their education - is not realistic.

applying for jobs in the near future will be academics - graduates with masters or doctors degrees and with corresponding demands concerning the type of profession and the payment for it.

That is also true for those graduates who "only" have a diploma from a vocational college that has been given university status.

Discussions on education in recent years have paid relatively little consideration to the labour market. This was right as the most important thing was to reform an education system that had developed in the course of time, suffered many shortcomings and no longer met the demands of a society that treated the right of education as an obvious demand.

Politicians responsible for educational matters feel that they are responsible for making sure that as many young people as possible are given an education appropriate to their talents and without any group being discriminated against, as happened in the past with the clearly underprivileged children of workers or farmers, with girls and with Catholics.

Recognising and solving the problems of the labour market is not the task of a politician specialising in educational affairs. But as the labour market is the eventual destination for the products of the educational system and the law of supply and demand exists on the labour market as on all other markets, the answers to the questions facing politicians concerned with the labour market because of the education boom are becoming increasingly important.

Questions must be asked as to the various authorities or population figures such as the proportion of doctors in community or the teacher-pupil ratio. These density figures are planned to be adjusted to the existing supply of academics to quite an extent. Academic must then be fitted into a professional thought of course with a lower salary less prestige.

If academic study is only chosen with giving education or educational experience in school-leavers, these considerations would be pointless.

But the main point is that school-leavers who have attended high school many years and then university, doing their earnings to assimilating information and passing examinations, should be scorned or subconsciously develop a elitist elitism and, when looking for a job, from the very outset only consider a select number of professions where satisfactory work can be found.

Many future graduates have to get used to the idea that university study does not give them a vested right to walk to a well-paid post with almost automatic promotion prospects.

In the next few years employers will be in the happy situation of covering the limited need of highly qualified personnel from a large supply of academics looking for a job. The best will be paid well and the great mass will be bought up cheap.

That applies mainly for arts graduates. In the past few years the sciences have not had the necessary intake of students by far and the proportion of students taking a scientific subject has even gone down. The 1958 figure was sixteen per cent. By 1969 it had gone down to eight per cent.

But an example from the United States shows how quickly the market for scientists can be saturated even though it seems to be in short supply throughout the world at the moment.

In the autumn of 1966 the American Institute of Physics described the shortage of physicists as serious and commissioned a study to find solutions to would overcome the shortage.

But in September 1967, when the National Science Foundation had already promised to finance this survey, the situation had completely changed. The number of physics students had decreased as in past years. At the same time Federal funds for basic and applied research were suddenly cut.

The two factors were enough to release a large number of highly specialised physicists onto the labour market where there were no longer any vacant positions.

These aims and figures could for example be the enlistment programme of

present and future need for highly qualified labour within the economy. With the supply of new men from schools and universities - academics particularly, the most expensive product of the education system - meet up to this demand or will the supply take no account of demand, or only in some disciplines, and will too few be trained in other subjects?

There is no comprehensive and methodically perfect forecast of future demand for academics of all disciplines and a comparison with the expected supply.

Present forecasts deal only with individual Federal states, such as Baden-Württemberg, or with individual professions, such as the teaching profession.

Overall forecasts have suffered up to now from the fact that they are based on old or unreliable information and that they are to a greater or lesser extent purely quantitative forecasts.

Of course, the demand for academics cannot be expressed exactly by figures. At best, analyses of demand can only include qualitative factors.

What are necessary are critical analyses of the relationship between what the university offers qualitatively and what industry demands qualitatively.

It is important not only to get an answer to the question of how many academics of discipline X will leave university in year Y but also to get an answer to the question of how many of the graduates of one discipline, for example chemistry, will indeed work in a profession connected with chemistry and how many in administration, sales and distribution or in management where their subject is no use to them.

Another question to be asked in this context is how many non-chemists - academics of other disciplines - indeed work in the chemical trade.

It must also be asked whether substitution of educational levels within one profession is possible. Can a qualified salesman (from a university) be replaced by a graduate from a higher economic college or a qualified engineer by a graduate of an engineering college?

What are the reasons for this possibility of substitution? Do employers view the two courses of training as equivalent? Do employers perhaps have to pay less wages to employees who have not had such a high degree of training and do they therefore tend to balance any differences in education with training within the concern?

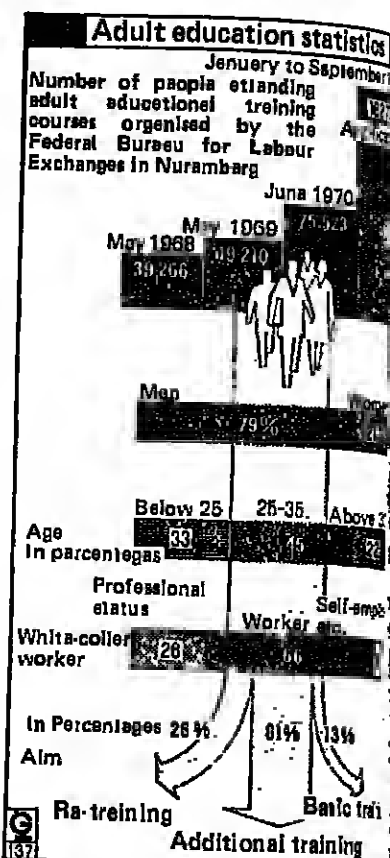
Or do some academic disciplines produce so few graduates that employers are forced to accept graduates of lower educational levels?

Questions of this type have scarcely been investigated in education forecasts even though they are of decisive importance for the correctness of these forecasts.

If they are not considered, a highly exaggerated demand may be forecast in some circumstances. If universities react to forecasts of this type by increasing the number of admissions there will one day be a glut of academics of some disciplines on the labour market, leading to serious difficulties.

In those areas of the economy where the principle of profit-making is not valid and where development is determined mainly by political or demographic factors, such as in public administration or the education system, political aims and density figures replace the development of production and productivity that determines the demand for labour in the private sphere.

These aims and figures could for example be the enlistment programme of



MEDICINE

Gout - the painful end result of an affluent society

Gout, assumed for some time to be a forgotten disease, has in recent years become a real threat to public health, though little notice has been taken of it.

The greatest attention should therefore be paid to a study that Freiburg internist Professor Dieter P. Mertz has devoted to this metabolic disorder and in which he points to the uncanny combination of gout, diabetes and arteriosclerosis.

Few diseases have been so completely misunderstood in the past - even by doctors - as gout. Because of the tripping gait of sufferers plagued by pains in the joints the illness was commonly called the twinges, which made it sound less serious than it was.

Medical men long thought of gout as a complaint that usually affected intellectuals. This generalisation is certainly wrong. As Freiburg internist Professor Dieter P. Mertz points out in his excellent study, active men such as Charlemagne, Henry VIII, Cromwell and

Louis XIV suffered from gout as well as scholars like Luther, Newton, Darwin and probably Goethe as well.

One thing is striking about this list of names. All the people concerned were commonly described as full-blooded and they are known to have been big eaters.

This is one explanation for the cause of gout and it is hardly surprising when it occurs here today after fifteen years of widespread prosperity.

As Professor Mertz says, gout can only be an illness of the rich or privileged. Its frequency in the Federal Republic for instance is greater than ever before.

Expressed in figures gout observed in 0.2 per cent of the population at the most in the time of shortage during and after the two world wars, this figure has now rocketed to between one and two per cent. Considering that many gout sufferers do not realise that it is gout that they have, the complaint is a serious problem.

The picture becomes all the more gloomy when it is learnt that gout frequency corresponds to that of diabetes. Doctors have also found that there is a far higher incidence of diabetes than is commonly assumed.

Until a few years ago it was estimated that no more than 1.7 per cent of the population suffered from diabetes. But mass examinations carried out in Munich by diabetes specialist Professor Hellmut Mehner have shown that at least three per cent of the general public suffer from a manifest form of diabetes.

Here too there is an alarming parallel to gout. Professor Mertz says, "The difference between assumed and actual cases of gout is caused by the fact that gout is not diagnosed enough."

In young people especially gout often

does not manifest itself at first as a disease of the joints. It either attacks the kidneys or appears as a general metabolic disorder affecting the metabolism of uric acid, carbohydrates and fats - this also applies partly to diabetes.

What causes are responsible for the great increase in the incidence of two diseases that have such different symptoms?

Both gout and diabetes are hereditary diseases often caused by enzyme defects. Enzymes are highly complicated protein bodies that aid a number of metabolic processes. They are therefore described as catalysts or, in the case of living organisms, as biocatalysts.

It can be seen that a defect in one certain enzyme must set off a disorder in the metabolic processes regulated by this enzyme, even though there is still a lot of uncertainty about the nature of these defects.

Professor Mertz says that hospital doctors cannot rid themselves of the impression that the nouveau riches from lower social levels are more susceptible to manifest forms of gout because of a lack of self-discipline than *vieux riches* and the *nouveaux pauvres*.

In other words, nearly all persons suffering from gout or diabetes are overweight. It must be mentioned here that the manifestation of gout and diabetes is only encouraged by this sort of life with an excess of calories and carbohydrates.

And what about the cause of the complaint? With gout there is what is known as a positive uric acid balance which means that the organism either excretes too little uric acid via the kidneys or that too much uric acid is formed in the internal metabolism.

As time passes, it reduces its initial rate of lymphocyte production, the production of a special form of white corpuscle. But on the other hand, it forms the precursors of the cell structures that wander to the spleen and the lymph nodes, gradually taking over the functions of the disappearing thymus.

The appendix too seems to be similar. Everything supports the assumption that it plays an important role in the development of immunity by producing the lymphocytes that in their turn produce antibodies.

Like tonsils and the thymus gland, the appendix is a lymphatic organ whose importance is still partly disputed but cannot be dismissed entirely.

The importance of the thymus gland was long misunderstood as well. The gland is situated near the base of the neck, weighing at birth between seven and fourteen grams.

It reaches its maximum weight of 25 grams when the child is thirteen or fourteen years old and then almost completely withers away. Only a very small remnant of the original gland tissue is retained until old age.

Although its disappearance seems to suggest that it is unnecessary, the thymus gland is today regarded as the gland that recognises the body's own tissue and mobilises defences against the infiltration of alien biological substances.

Dr Lampert also reported of observations where injected appendix cells had a clearly protective effect in cases of radiation.

Both factors, the higher susceptibility to cancer after appendix operations, though the increase does not exceed

It is thought that these metabolic anomalies are connected with a general disorder of the protein metabolism. This is supported by the fact that sufferers of gout are a thousand times more liable to have renal stones than people with a healthy metabolism.

According to Professor Mertz's own hospital studies, about fifty per cent of gout sufferers are overweight, ten to thirty per cent are overweight and at the same time diabetic and a further thirty per cent have a latent form of diabetes that has not yet become manifest. Many gout sufferers, like diabetics, are also liable to have serious arteriosclerosis at an early age.

Professor Mertz takes over-eating to be a common factor in this terrible combination of gout, diabetes and arteriosclerosis. A metabolic disorder in gout patients at any rate permits to a certain extent the

forecast of a simultaneous development of diabetes, if it does not exist already.

But the Professor does set a limit to his theory. There can be no link between the hereditary factors for gout and those for diabetes and obesity. The complaints have different genetic make-ups.

On the other hand, Professor Malinert intimated that obesity could be a basis on which gout and diabetes flourish so well today.

But Professor Mertz has provided patients with a ray of hope in his work that was published by the periodical *Universitas*. During the period between attacks and even in the chronic stage, there is more chance of a successful treatment of gout than of all the other diseases of the joints put together.

With the aid of a substance cutting back the overproduction of uric acid, doctors have now managed to take all the danger out of gout. But gout, as Professor Mehner also says, must be diagnosed earlier than is the case today unfortunately.

Alfred Püllmann
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 January 1971)

relatively narrow limits, and the protective effect in cases of radiation, show that the appendix must have some function.

There is a practical reason for scientific interest in this. A certain number of what are called system diseases, such as leukaemia or Hodgkin's Disease, can theoretically be cured by subjecting the whole body to a high dose of radiation.

But a patient would have little chance of surviving high doses of radiation for any length of time. Only a bone marrow transplant could save him but transplants of this type have had no lasting success.

Now experiments on a total of 120 rabbits have shown that half of them recover completely if they are infected with appendix cells after a dose of radiation that would normally be fatal.

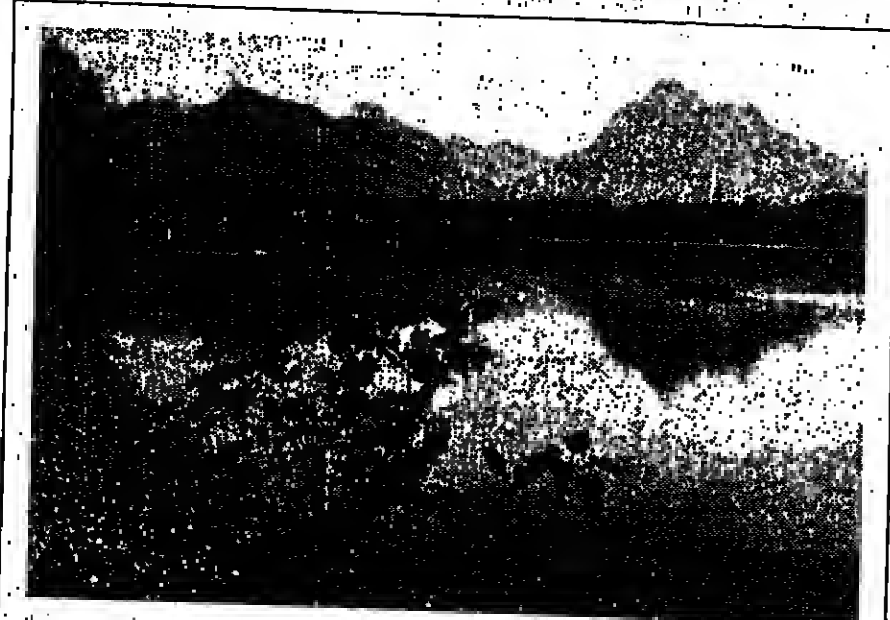
It is far too early to say whether results would also be the same with human beings. There are still many things that have to be cleared up.

But it would be a great success if it were one day possible to take out the patient's appendix before overall radiation and inject him with certain types of cell from the appendix after radiation in order to save his life.

This vague hope should not make people too eager to keep their appendix. If it has got to come out, it is senseless and dangerous to resist.

The old textbook definition "Its particular function is not clear and its loss harmless" is however in need of revision. Surgeons should bear this in mind in future before taking out an appendix where there is no pressing need.

Heinrich Apert
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 January 1971)



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various authorities or population figures such as the proportion of doctors in community or the teacher-pupil ratio.

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These aims and figures could for example be the enlistment programme of

Long-distance runs beat cancer, doctor claims

Long-distance running can prevent death from cancer according to sensational conclusions arrived at by Dr Ernst van Aaken from Weidnau in the Lower Rhine area, published recently in a scientific magazine.

Starting from late Nobel Prize-winner Otto Warburg's theory that respiratory damage is a cause of cancer, Dr van Aaken set out to see whether constantly providing the body with more oxygen than it needed would prevent the start of cancer.

Van Aaken found that normal people are far more likely to catch cancer than long-distance runners in the same age range.

He came across four cases of cancer in six years among the 454 members of a club for older long-distance runners aged between forty and ninety. In a parallel survey of 454 normal male patients of similar age he found 29 cases of cancer during the same period.

While seventeen of these cases were fatal, all the long-distance runners recovered from the disease and are running once again.

Dr van Aaken stresses that the runners he examined formed no sort of human elite but were affected by sickness the same as anyone else before they embarked on this type of training.

Seven had already had heart attacks and 74 had had circulatory disorders, some of them serious. But now that they run between three and five miles a day nearly all of them are perfectly healthy.

In 1923 and 1924 Otto Warburg showed that the cancer cells in the metabolism did not breathe but gained energy by fermenting without oxygen (glycolysis) and spread.

He turned normal cells from a mouse into cancerous cells within 48 hours by producing a 35 per cent oxygen shortage.

Van Aaken said that he supposed that an excess of hydrogen in the body was the actual cause of cancer. Regular long-distance running, long-distance swimming, rowing, cycling or skiing could together with moderation in caloric consumption (the ideal number is 1,700 a day) prevent an unnecessary accumulation of hydrogen and thus prevent cancer.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 January 1971)

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■ THE ECONOMY

No financial crisis foreseen for 1971

THE MOMENT FOR GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT DOMESTIC REFORMS

Despite the Opposition's laments over the past few months about an imminent financial crisis this will not affect the Federal Republic this year. Nor will their prediction that the budget for 1970 would be damaging to the industrial sector of the economy come true.

Last year the government spent seven per cent more than in the previous year, but it had planned increased expenditure of nine per cent and even if it had spent twelve per cent more this would have been perfectly all right in view of the gross national product.

Discussions on these points, which kept the Bundestag and the general public occupied for weeks on end, were, therefore, unnecessary.

The Christian Democrat/Christian Social Opposition painted the situation blacker than was necessary. This is something which, of course, they are entitled to do, but this credibility gap they thus opened up has damaged them and not the government coalition.

Now in the first month of 1971 the SPD/FDP government has finally allayed rumours that it would be raising taxes this year. A promise of no tax increases has been made.

In the present situation this is not even essential. In the six months that have elapsed since the Cabinet approved the draft plan for the 1971 budget not much, in fact remarkably little, has changed.

Expenditure commitments are likely to amount to approximately one thousand million Marks, but the Cabinet feels that it is able to afford expenditure of one thousand million Marks.

As far as the question of the amount of taxes that can be levied is concerned it is the tax estimates committee - and not the Finance Minister Alex Möller - that has perpetrated the miscalculation.

Restraint on government expenditure was justified in 1970 and was put into

practice. But in 1971 an increase in government spending of twelve per cent, which has been a cause of friction and heated debate, will have to be financed. Since taxes are not to be increased it has been decided by the government to increase the amount of capital raised by borrowing.

At 2.9 thousand million Marks this would not be excessive. A milliard more is not likely to cause any great upheavals on the capital market.

It will be interesting to see what monstrous ideas are now put forward to the public as subject matter for heated debating. Probably public discussions will now turn to the shape of things to come in the Federal Republic after this year.

On this score the government is due to make far-reaching decisions. It will prepare these in February and March.

The variations in the amount of money raised for government spending in taxes are difficult to predict over more than the short-term. Income to the government coffers was high in 1969 as opposed to 1970 when the amount raised in taxes was cut back owing to the effects of financial reform.

This financial reform which was introduced early on in 1970 altered the share-out of taxes among the central government, the Federal states and local governments.

The measures introduced to help the industrial sector do not exactly help to make the picture any clearer, what with tax surcharges, higher tax prepayments, severe profit cuts and the repayable tax surcharge.

And what measure of economic growth we shall be blessed with from 1972 onwards, God only knows! In fact mortals such as we are none too sure how 1971 will pan out.

Government spending, including that of the Federal state and local governments,

will depend, when all is said and done, on the policies of domestic reform.

The Opposition and many ordinary people have raised the objection that this policy is like a bill for drinks without a publican. All are overlooking the fact that mid-term financial planning up till 1974, which was passed last summer, gives very precise details about the amounts of money that are to be made available for reform.

There is no problem about the government giving no thought as to how it will finance the reforms it plans, but there does remain the question of whether the financial calculations it has made are still realistic.

Furthermore there is the question of what to do if incoming money is not enough to pay for these reforms.

Latest calculations of incoming taxes state that the taxation ratio (taxes expressed as a percentage of the national product) will not reach the 1969 level again before 1972. However, Chancellor Brandt promised in his statement of government policy that his government would never allow the taxation ratio to exceed that of 1969, when it was 24.2 per cent of the national product.

This promise will not have been broken even if the government decides in the spring that tax increases of some kind will have to be made in 1972 or later. And two major taxes are to be dropped, investment tax and the so-called Lober-Pfennig.

No one can expect any government to sit back year after year and watch as its tax income is automatically whittled away, but we now know that Brandt and company will continue to do so throughout 1971. What happens afterwards? There are widely differing general opinions on this.

There seems little opportunity for the government to reduce its reform expenditure now that the public has been

awakened to the need for more investments in education, hospitals and garbage disposal.

To starve these genuine needs of raising a few taxes or borrowing would be tantamount to condoning twenty years of inaction we all know from 1949 onwards, and even the Opposition no longer considers this a ratio a sacred cow.

It would be a great pity if the Democrats' reforming zeal were to lose its impetus at the very moment when the right economic basis for such a policy seems to have reached maturity. Government expenditure is no longer held back by the dreadful constraint that it is upon it by measures to dampen an overheated economy.

The government must not let this opportune moment slip by.

Hans Frenkel
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 January)

Klasen and Schiller reassure industry

Bundesbank President Karl Klasen is sure that this country has now reached the apex of the economic boom. In an interview he said: "We are just as sure as we are not yet any ground encouraging the economy to start an expansive course again. There is a sent no danger of our cooling too soon a recession for comfort."

But he said that the main cause of doubt was whether the government's Bundesbank could rein in soaring prices as everybody hopes.

Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller confirmed that collective bargaining between employers and workers on deals is more than ever taking account of the state of the industrial sector of the economy.

Data referring to the state of the economy do not conflict with developments on the market, but comfort them, he said.

Professor Schiller assured this country's industry that "in this year of troubles industry there will be no alternative tax or other allied factors, which mean an extra burden on industry."

(DIE WELT, 12 January)

Ailing tax system needs overhaul

much valuable time that the tax office cannot afford.

The obvious result of this is that the honest taxpayer will in future not have to wait just three or four months for the rebates due to him, but twelve months or even more.

The nature of this campaign, which is given the pretentious designation of "service according to the letter of the law", will in fact be little more than a work-to-rule.

Tax officials want to follow the example of judges, primary school teachers and balliffs and break away from the present system where they are paid a flat rate, in favour of graded salary schemes.

This is a move that Finance Minister Alex Möller will not be able to ignore considering the state of the labour market at present.

Tax-office workers have a high degree of specialisation even in a modern economy. Therefore the administrative departments of major companies which are run on similar lines to modern State tax offices are only too glad to attract young tax officials away from their jobs. They offer them higher salaries and comparable old-age security.

Up until the end of 1969 the government had lost 8,000 highly qualified tax officials in this manner.

This happened at a time when young men were turning to major companies with the prospect of fast promotion and a glossy career rather than the staid security of life in a public servant's office!

As the tax system became more and more complicated so more and more drifted off into other jobs. Not one office in this country is today able to do its work exactly as prescribed because of staff shortages.

The scratch methods they have to use because of this favour those who pay *Einkommensteuer* and are better off than those who pay *Lohnsteuer* which generally speaking arranged for them by their employer.

So the tax offices are in a bad way and are hardly paragons of fairness. There therefore a connection between unfair tax-collecting and the pay that officials receive.

Hermann Fredersdorf is not convinced himself, that his go-slow methods will work and is therefore advising tax officials to earn some money on the side as tax advisers, just as teachers do as after-school private tuition.

The tax situation gets more and more complicated! Can anyone still expect a deal from the taxman? The only hope for the whole system to be made simpler. But Professor Haller who has been eliminated by Alex Möller to simplify it has not yet got very far.

DEUTSCHES ALLEGENE
SONNTAGSBLATT, 17 January 1971

THE SAILING WORLD

Hamburg Boat Show bigger than ever

Superlatives have been sprinkled about liberally as the Eleventh Federal Republic International Boat Show began in Hamburg. The idea behind this year's show, it was stated, was to help this country's boats and accessories industry escape from the toils of a general slump by the dreadful constraint that is upon it by measures to dampen an overheated economy.

The government must not let this opportune moment slip by.

Hans Frenkel
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 January)

There was hardly a thing missing from what they had to offer at this, the most international of international shows in Europe. There were boats and accessories mainly for sportsmen, but also for anyone who took to the waterways for whatever reason.

The centrepiece of the super-show which is open till 31 January is the collection of 1,200 sporting boats, one-third more than were on show last year, ranging from the beginner's craft at two-hundred Marks to the luxury yacht that sells for a cool half million Marks.

The forest of masts on the sailing boats is thicker than ever before and the trend towards fibre-glass keels seems to have continued in strength. Sporting boats are sportier than ever but that does not mean that they are unsuited for the family outing. The family has been catered for perhaps more than ever this year.

Among the many novelties with names such as "Selecta" or "Phantom 20" or "Clipper 2000" there is the impressive Dutch vessel "Victoire 28" which sells for 42,000 Marks.

It is 8.55 metres long and 2.7 metres wide with a sail surface area of 35.6 square metres. It takes five people with comfort and they even have the luxury of a large table, a wardrobe, a massive pantry and several cupboards and drawers on board.

A new line in end in cruisers is the British built "Warwick", which is 6.5 metres long. This can be towed by a car to the water and yet it still accommodates four people in comfort.

Britain leads the way in the number of exhibits, followed by The Netherlands and Denmark. But there are even racing boats and cabin cruisers bearing the stamp "Made in Singapore".

The selection of motor-boats of all kinds and all price ranges is also larger at this year's Hamburg boat-show than previously.

Many international boat-builders have high hopes of this country's market, hence the success of this year's show. The Norwegians hope to earn Marks with their new motor cruiser *Fjord M 34*, powered by two 110 horsepower diesel motors. This craft is 10.37 metres long and 3.7 metres wide, with two cabins, a living-room, a spacious pantry and a shower-room.

Extras for the *Fjord* include a hot-water boiler, air-conditioning and even radar and a radio transmitter.

On many of the models on show there are improvements on the old design, which will console purchasers a little for the fact that prices have risen. The average increase for boats and accessories is eight per cent.

According to manufacturers the houseboat is likely to become more popular in this country. A new model is on show, the *Future Tri-Cabin*, costing 86,400 Marks and offering sleep accommodation for eight and sufficient comfort for pleasant holidays on the water. This construction of wood is powered by two 230-horsepower petrol motors.

Technically minded visitors to the exhibition which attracted people from 42 different countries last year will have 900 power units to study. As far as accessories are concerned the Boat Show has become more like a bazaar and the man in the street is likely to go dizzy at the technical and nautical terms.

One novelty of interest is a Danish performance gauge which gives the sailor for the first time the opportunity of testing the characteristics of his craft without the influences of wind and tides. Britain has produced a multi-purpose alarm system, the Scout Sea Alarm, which gives timely warnings of outbreaks of fire, unauthorised persons breaking in and unexpected shoals.

The Federal Republic sailing association has put on show the prototype of a newly developed distress signal which in emergencies automatically radios SOS.

The Bundespost has introduced a new VHF radio with 28 channels specifically for sports sailors.

Safety at sea will in future involve lifejackets, children's life-jackets and special suits for sailors, made of a material which when dry allows air to circulate but as soon as it comes into contact with water shuts its pores immediately. All of these will remain serviceable even if the wearer has lost consciousness.

French designers have produced a sail cloth of light, indestructible water-tight material which is nevertheless porous and allows air to pass through.

This is the last time that the Hamburg international Boat Show will be held in January. The next one will be held in October and will mark the transition to an autumn boat show which will be the rendez-vous for sailors in Hamburg in the future.

The Show organisers and exhibitors see great advantages in the October date. It will mean that buyers have a better than ever guarantee that their purchases will be ready for the next summer season despite lengthy delivery dates.

In addition to this exhibitors will find it easier to transport their wares to and from the Boat Show which is often difficult for them in January and expensive, because of ice and snow.

Wolfgang Feucht
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 January 1971)

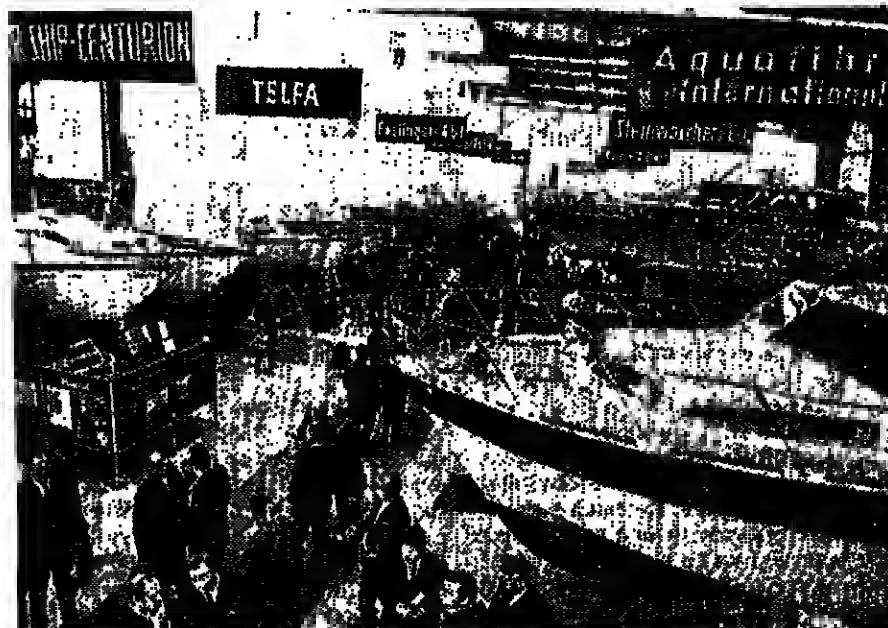
No Frankfurt Motor Show this year

There will be no international motor show this year. This will come as a great surprise for many people for whom this exhibition in Frankfurt has been a great attraction every other year and an occasion not to be missed.

But this country's motor manufacturing industry and its suppliers, as members of the Automobile Industry Association (VDA) which is responsible for organising the motor-show have decided to do without this exhibition of their products this year.

It must be stressed that this was a difficult decision to make and the decision must be considered in the light of the off-heard complaint that the glut of car showrooms that are springing up all over the country are a waste of effort and money.

But the decision should be respected since it was taken in the committee rooms of the VDA and was passed unanimously. However, it is unlikely that the general public, which has always provided the greatest proportion of the



One of the exhibition halls in the Hamburg Boat Show

(Photo: Conit-Press)

Gutehoffnungshütte in a strong position

Growth rates of between twelve and 32 per cent for the business year 1969-70 were chalked up by Gutehoffnungshütte, with a boost to turnover, incoming contracts and orders still in hand bringing in sums running into thousands of millions of Marks and reaching a level far higher than the wildest optimists had hoped for.

This concern, represented in many branches of the Federal Republic capital investment goods industry, announced that in "almost all factories and workshops" plant was running constantly in top gear.

Nor should it be thought that the impetus given by this boom, which brought with it capital for reinvestment above the 1,000 million-Mark level for the first time, was waning when the books were closed on 30 June 1970.

On the contrary. In the first six months of 1970 the Gutehoffnungshütte group achieved overall turnover of 2.91 thousand million Marks, 11.6 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1969, while incoming orders were worth 4.17 thousand million Marks, which meant an increase of 12.4 per cent.

From June to December last year orders in hand showed a further increase of 16.4 per cent to 8.94 thousand million Marks.

Further promising major projects, with substantial orders for supplying plant have been embarked upon in the past few

weeks and this should push the cushion of orders in hand for January well over the nine thousand million Mark level.

One of these is the "Sidor" programme for the supply of equipment to the steel industry in Venezuela, which is worth 700 million Marks. A major part of this programme will be carried out by the Gutehoffnungshütte subsidiary Ferrostaal, a Federal Republic-Belgian consortium.

Some may say that this is all in direct contrast to the gloomy forecasts made by the head of the concern, Dietrich Wilhelm von Menges a year or so ago, when he claimed that revaluation of the Mark and other factors might lead to "stormy weather" as well as cut backs in production and profits.

Herr von Menges says No. And at the press conference called this year when the company's balance sheet was made public Herr von Menges was able to justify the pessimism he then felt.

Although the business has expanded in such an encouraging fashion yields were not too good on the surface and worsened in 1969-70.

The committee has found three reasons to explain why the yield is not so promising. Firstly the subsidiary firm Gutehoffnungshütte-Stückrade AG (manufacturers of plant and heavy duty containers) suffered an unexpectedly heavy loss over the year of 41 million Marks.

Secondly the government's policy of keeping interest rates at a high level meant that interest payments went up from 7.9 million to 21.5 million Marks. Thirdly wage and salaries costs soared despite the fact that personnel was not substantially increased.

One important reservation that must be made is that stocks in hand of semi-finished and completed articles have increased by about the same proportion as personnel costs, from 1,174 million Marks to 1,273 million, largely because of the length of time it takes to complete large-scale plant.

Personnel costs for the completion of such items have already been included in the figures for 1969-70 whereas the general costs depreciation and earnings on these stocks in hand will be published later.

Gutehoffnungshütte is on a better footing than ever following the publication of the 1970 figures. This year should see a typical development in which mid-term planning will involve the investment of 200 million Marks. It will not be necessary to raise new capital for this.

According to Herr von Menges the main aim of company investments is a rationalisation programme and extending present production capacity.

(DIE WELT, 22 January 1971)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Road builders discuss plans up to 1985 at Berlin conference

Research work forming the basis of roadbuilding plans between now and 1985 has made expectations of a twofold increase in the number of vehicles on the roads a thing of the past.

According to H.J. Huber of the Ministry of Transport, speaking at a recent Berlin conference on roadbuilding sponsored by the Road Research Association, an average growth rate of forty per cent is expected up to a saturation point of one car per 3.3 inhabitants, an increase — including estate cars — of six million to twenty million.

Except insofar as the newcomers are second cars for the wife the increase will only be apparent on trunk roads.

Travel intensity will also make its presence felt. By 1985 the percentage of people travelling some distance at least once a year by car in relation to the population as a whole will have increased from the present forty to a saturation point of roughly 55 per cent.

Road haulage will register a slightly greater increase than the growth rate in gross domestic product, probably as a result of the increasing proportion of higher-value products that appear, as general cargo, to be better suited for forwarding by road than by rail or water.

As regards the details the planners attached the greatest importance to gaining as precise as possible an idea of the

varying regional distribution of this increase in road capacity requirements, dividing the country into 78 regions for the purpose.

A road-lane plan was evolved from the resulting master plan. When the number of vehicles using a fast two-lane road exceeds 800 an hour it is now scheduled for conversion to four lanes. Where the road is intended to carry a heavy load of traffic the planning level is 1,100 vehicles an hour, or 1,500 in the case of rush-hour traffic arteries.

The various criteria eventually led to a classification according to priority. This being the final phase of the plan it was submitted to the Bundestag last October as an appendix to a Bill on trunk road construction.

A Berlin engineer by the name of Hsbermann raised another relevant point in connection with rush-hour traffic. Rush-hour traffic moves, if that is the right word, in one direction only, into town in the morning, out of town in the afternoon and with comparable but slightly different peak periods over the weekend.

In a number of countries various signs are used to indicate use of, say, the third, outgoing lane for ingoing traffic during the morning rush-hour period and vice-versa. Research work has been carried out in this country to determine which signals are most effective in indicating to the motorist that three lanes are being used in one direction and only one in the other.

The conclusion reached is that a red bar (the no entry sign) and a green arrow pointing downwards are decidedly the most immediately comprehensible light signals for use in this context.

Another issue of some importance was the damage to road surfaces caused every winter, by salting and spikes, damage estimated as amounting to several hundred million Marks per annum.

Last winter alone Dr G. Zohnar of Cologne measured tyre tracks ten millimetres (0.4 in) deep. The damage caused by studded tyres to roads free of snow and ice is the result not only of the force of impact, which increases in proportion to the speed of the vehicle, but also of skid, braking, acceleration and cornering, which add to the problem.

What actually happens is that spikes are scratched, broken and torn out of the tyre surface and the road surface penetrated and eroded.

It is gratifying to note that research workers are gaining a better understanding of the processes that cause this wear and tear. According to Professor Wehner of Berlin work on new designs of spike and their relationships with the tread in which they are housed promises to reduce considerably the force transmitted by each individual spike to the road surface.

In Switzerland, according to Herr Blumer, a Thun engineer, large-scale tests are in progress to estimate the resistance to spike damage of fine asphalt concrete as a road-surfacing material and to determine how the resistance to wear and tear of this material can be improved.

Issues involved include the composition of the mortar, the size of aggregate used, the shape of the sand grains, increased surface density, correct preparation of the material and the right way of laying it on the road surface.

Environmental protection, now a political issue, was also discussed in Berlin. Professor Krell of the Road Research Institute of Cologne delivered a paper on constructional means of reducing road noise.

According to Dr Krell a certain amount

can be done at the town planning and road designing stage. New housing estates ought not to be located within earshot of main through roads and if there is no alternative adequate protective zones ought to separate the two.

Lengthy gradients in built-up areas ought to be avoided, since traffic on them is louder than usual — downhill ton — because of brake application by drivers of heavy goods vehicles.

Grooves should not be drilled into the road surface to improve road-holding in built-up areas because they too increase noise levels. So do traffic lights because of the noise of stopping and starting.

The ideal solution would be to design all main roads free of intersections, yet even where this is impossible or not feasible for financial reasons linked signals can do a good deal to improve matters.

Where there is sufficient space, 100 or 200 metres, say, on either side of the road greenery can be a great help in sound insulation, particularly parallel rows of bushes, bushes being preferable to trees.

Another effective means of eliminating unnecessary noise is to have the road cut through hills as it passes or throw up embankments on either side of it, in which case the embankments must be as steep and close to the road as possible.

At present the Cologne Institute is putting sound-absorbing protective fences through their paces on a section of the autobahn near Bottrop in Westphalia.

The fences are not only being tested to see how effective they are at absorbing noise but also to see how they react to rain, snow, changes in temperatures, dirt and road salt and how they affect traffic, particularly in respect of vision, wind and snow protection.

Two designs of sound-absorbing material have been developed but both contain five components: mineral fibre matting to absorb high frequencies, protective foil to prevent damp and frost damage, air chambers between foil and the backplate in which lower frequencies ricochet themselves quiet and a protective layer with holes facing the traffic to hinder damage caused by stones or hoollgauls.

This sound-absorbing fencing is mounted on struts of varying kinds and measuring equipment forty metres away register their efficacy. At a height of 1.3 metres noise is reduced by thirteen decibels, at 5.7 metres by eleven and at 11.6 metres, equivalent to the third floor of a block of flats, by eight decibels.

Reduction of the noise level by ten decibels is felt by the human ear to be a halving of the noise. Fencing also cuts down the variation in noise levels, to 0.6 metres six decibels at a height of 1.3 metres, for instance.

Near Porz, Cologne, various kinds of fencing are to undergo trials on a lengthy section of road near Cologne-Bonn airport in order to convince the general public of its efficacy. *Helmut Droscha*

(Hendelsblatt, 13 January 1971)

Batteries that do not need servicing

Patents have been applied for by a Westphalian manufacturer of car batteries for a battery that no longer needs servicing. The new battery will be ready for incorporation in models fresh from the assembly line by mid-1972.

A trial battery has been running in the Hoppecke laboratories for a period equivalent to 75,000 miles of driving and is still going strong. Domestic motor manufacturers are also trying out the new problem-free battery for themselves.

The principle of the new battery is relatively straightforward. A catalyst converts the hydrogen and oxygen that escape from the acid into water, which is then returned to the acid.

The casing of the new battery is in

Pop art invades new Berlin underground

At a ceremony attended by Transport Minister Georg Leber, new sections of Underground were opened in West Berlin on 26 January. Together they total 8.7 kilometres or over five miles.

Travel to and from the Federal public remains a tiresome business for people of Berlin while in the city the situation continually improves.

Urban autobahns and fast roads up road traffic while much of rush-hour burden is borne by ground public transport. And as each section of Underground is opened corresponding bus service vacates roads.

With 113.4 kilometres (71 miles) "U-Bahn" Berlin is, moreover, above most European capitals.

The ten stations on the new route, a pop look. There can be no mistake, the bright colours of the station trances. Not everyone has grown up the idea, though.

The trains also boast a new look. Carriages are built by the same two firms that are, for instance, supplying Munich with its Underground stock.

They travel at speeds of up to six kilometres an hour (40 mph), have contact with U-Bahn headquarters, travel along track supervised by electronic, computerised signal boxes.

This longest new stretch of U-Bahn took eight years to complete and a roughly 300 million Marks.

The first Berlin U-Bahn, from Osh to Potsdamer Platz, was inaugurated in February 1902. Present plans envisage a 200-kilometre (125-mile) network, including a line out to Spandau, a suburb.

(DIE WELT, 27 January 1971)

BASF develops new surfacing for roads

Lucolite, a new synthetic material is claimed by the manufacturer to reduce wear and tear on surfaces, particularly as caused by ice in the winter months, has been developed by BASF of Ludwigshafen.

A mixture of ethylene copolymer and a special bitumen, it is added to road-surfacing material. Tests indicate that wear and tear on fine aggregate concrete is virtually halved.

Further trials are being carried out on several busy sections of road in the country and Austria.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 January 1971)

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